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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,365	11/20/2003	Toyokazu Sugimoto	83394.0020	3596
<div>26021 7590 06/05/2007</div> <div>HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.</div> <div>1999 AVENUE OF THE STARS</div> <div>SUITE 1400</div> <div>LOS ANGELES, CA 90067</div>				
			<div>EXAMINER</div> <div>VETTER, DANIEL</div>	
			<div>ART UNIT</div> <div>3628</div>	<div>PAPER NUMBER</div>
			<div>MAIL DATE</div> <div>06/05/2007</div>	<div>DELIVERY MODE</div> <div>PAPER</div>

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/719,365	Applicant(s) SUGIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Daniel P. Vetter	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-2, 5-6, and 11-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/20/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 3-4 and the corresponding embodiments of multiple dependent claims 7-10 in the reply filed on April 17, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3, 4, and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: the acronym DB should be defined at least at the instance of its first usage for the sake of clarity and completeness. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 3-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the authentication" in page 4, line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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6. Dependent claims 4 and 7-10 have numerous instances in which the claims recite a previously introduced limitation with an indefinite article ("a" or "an"). For example, claim 9 introduces "an admission ticket" in line 8 even though an admission ticket was previously introduced and therefore has sufficient antecedent basis. This usage makes the scope of the claims vague and indefinite because it is unclear if claim is referring back to the previously introduced limitation or presenting a new element; and therefore does not properly apprise the public of what would constitute infringement. Applicant is requested to carefully review the dependent claims and properly refer back to limitations that already have antecedent basis in the claims with a definite article such as "the" or "said."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 3-4 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mahoney, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,502,806 (Reference A of the attached PTO-892).

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9. As per claim 3, Mahoney, et al. teaches a facility reserving system comprising an authenticating means (column 4, line 5) for receiving a human-perceptible unique, second identifier displayed on the sold admission ticket (column 3, line 23) via the communications network and thereby authenticating validity thereof (column 4, line 11) and a reservation information registering means (column 6, line 44) for carrying out communications with said user terminal upon obtaining the authentication (column 6, line 41) and registering, with a facility reservation DB, said first identifier (column 6, lines 49-51) and information for reserving facility names and reservation time slots thereof produced by a user operating said user terminal in an associated manner (column 4, lines 12-15).

10. As per claim 4, Mahoney, et al. teaches the system of claim 3 as described above. Mahoney, et al. further teaches at the time of admission into said site or facility, the unique, first identifier of the information storage element mounted in said admission ticket is readout (column 4, lines 33-36), and admission is permitted while referring to facility reservation information registered with said facility reservation DB with this identifier as a key (column 4, line 37).

11. As per claim 8, Mahoney, et al. teaches the system of claim 3 as described above. Mahoney, et al. further teaches a reservation screen information producing/outputting means (column 4, line 15) for, by referring to said facility

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reservation DB, producing screen information in a form where information for reservation-available facility names and time slots thereof can be selected by a user (column 4, lines 13-15) and providing the same to said user terminal or on-site-installed reservation terminal (column 4, line 15).

12. As per claim 9, Mahoney, et al. teaches the systems of claims 3 and 4 as described above. Mahoney, et al. further teaches a reservation screen information receiving means (column 4, line 15) for carrying out communications with said facility reserving system upon approximation or loading of information storage element having a computer-identifiable unique, first identifier, mounted in an admission ticket (column 4, lines 4-7; column 6, lines 41-47) and receiving, from said facility reserving system, reservation screen information in a form where information for reservation-available facility names and time slots thereof can be selected (column 4, line 12); and a selection input information communicating means for taking in a selection input for a facility reservation by a user while displaying said reservation screen information (column 4, lines 13-15) and sending the same to said facility reserving system via said communications network (column 4, line 15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahoney, et al. in view of Redmann, et al., U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0174003 (Reference B of the attached PTO-892).

15. As per claim 7, Mahoney, et al. teaches the system of claim 3 as described above. Mahoney, et al. further teaches a group (column 1, line 35) reservation receiving means (column 4, line 5) for receiving human-perceptible unique, second identifiers respectively displayed on admission tickets (column 3, line 23) for a predetermined number of persons (column 4, lines 52-55). Mahoney, et al. does not teach via an admission ticket possessed by a representative and permitting a reservation input thereof only for an identical time slot of an identical facility. Redmann, et al. teaches via an admission ticket possessed by a representative and permitting a reservation input thereof only for an identical time slot of an identical facility (§§ 0143-47). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of Redmann, et al. into the system taught by Mahoney, et al. in order to allow for a preferred party to use a no-wait entrance to an attraction (as taught by Redmann, et al.; § 0143).

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16. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahoney, et al. in view of DeLorme, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,948,040 (Reference C of the attached PTO-892).

17. As per claim 10, Mahoney, et al. teaches the system of claim 9 as described above. Mahoney, et al. does not explicitly teach a display control means for displaying, in addition to a present location, an arrangement of facilities installed at the periphery in a map form and also displaying already-reserved facilities in a manner differentiated from other facilities. DeLorme, et al. teaches a display control means (column 14, line 60) for displaying, in addition to a present location, an arrangement of facilities installed at the periphery in a map form (column 22, lines 49-51) and also displaying already-reserved facilities in a manner differentiated from other facilities (column 22, lines 46, 55-56). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the above teachings of DeLorme, et al. into the system taught by Mahoney, et al. to enable the user to visually identify selected geographical information (as taught by DeLorme, et al.; column 22, lines 56-58).

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Laval, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,209 (Reference D of the attached PTO-892) teaches a method and system for managing admission to an

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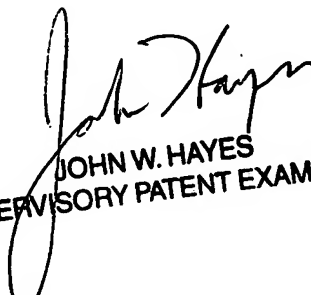
attraction that includes a first validator for validating an entitlement of a customer to receive an assigned time in the future for accessing the attraction via the second queue, a media distributor for distributing a media to an entitled customer, the media including the assigned time at which the entitled customer is entitled to access the attraction in the future, and a second validator for validating the entitled customer access to the attraction at the time provided on the media. Hasegawa, et al., U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0040308 (Reference E of the attached PTO-892) teaches a method designed for validating an entrance to an event site carried out by the steps of accessing to a ticket issue server through a network by a portable terminal device to request an issue of ticket data, accepting a request of the ticket data at the ticket issue server and transmitting the ticket data in place of a physical ticket to the portable terminal device in response to the request, and receiving the ticket data by the portable terminal device to reproduce the ticket data in a visible or audible form at the event site for validating of the entrance to the event site. Helbling, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,797,126 (Reference F of the attached PTO-892) teaches a theater-ticket concierge system in which individual kiosks are in wireless communication with a central station so that, based upon programming from the central station, the individual events of interest can be selected by a patron who can view an excerpt or scene and, upon indicating interest, can then view available seating on a seating plan or the like.

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19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P. Vetter whose telephone number is (571) 270-1366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER